

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 037690

EXDIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1976
SENT LONDON, PARIS, BONN, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, ROME, LUXEMBOURG,
COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, EC BRUSSELS, KINSHASA, LUSAKA IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 037690

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, CG, ZA

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE

REF: STATE 37663

1. IN REFTEL WE RAISED THE ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA
AND ZAIRE. DEPARTMENT NOW WANTS ADDRESSEES TO FOLLOW UP
BY REQUESTING EARLY MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE SENIOR
OFFICIALS OF HOST COUNTRY TO EXPLAIN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
THE PROBLEMS FACING ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE, WHAT CAN BE DONE
ABOUT THEM AND REQUESTING HOST GOVERNMENTS ALSO TO EXAMINE
SITUATION CLOSELY WITH A VIEW TO ASSISTING THESE TWO STATES

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TO OVERCOME THEIR PRESENT ECONOMIC AND SECURITY DIFFI-

CULTIES.

2. ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE PLAYED INDISPENSABLE ROLES TO BLOCK SUCCESS OF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA WHICH ALSO WAS IN WESTERN INTEREST. BOTH STATES NOW BELIEVE THEY ARE FACED WITH INCREASED THREATS TO THEIR OWN POLITICAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN PART AS A RESULT OF THEIR RESISTANCE TO THE MPLA. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT MPLA IS IN A VERY ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION VIS-A-VIS ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE. THERE ARE 4,000 FORMER GENDARMES FROM TSHBOME'S ILL-FATED KATANGA REGIME FIGHTING FOR MPLA IN ANGOLA. WE HAVE

RECEIVED REPORTS THAT FORMER CONGOLESE REBEL LEADER,

ANTOINE GIZENGA HAS BEEN SENT TO LUANDA BY THE SOVIETS TO SERVE AS A THREAT TO MOBUTU. IN ADDITION, MPLA CONTROLS ZAIRE'S RAIL ACCESS ROUTE TO THE SEA AND NETO RECENTLY ALLUDED TO ANGOLA'S ABILITY TO CUT OFF TRAFFIC ON THE ZAIRE RIVER -- WHICH HE COULD EASILY DO -- IF MOBUTU DOES NOT ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH MPLA. THUS MPLA CAN AFFECT ALMOST ALL ZAIRE'S TRADE AND A MAJORITY (IN NORMAL TIMES) OF ZAMBIA'S, WHICH IS CARRIED ON THE BENGUELA RAILROAD. ZAMBIA IS ALSO CONCERNED BY A SPILL-OVER OF THE FIGHTING FROM ANGOLA AS WELL AS THE THREAT FROM INTERNAL DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA ENCOURAGED BY THE MPLA.

3. THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHERS, HAVE LONG BEEN AWARE OF THE PLIGHT OF ZAIRE AND HAVE TAKEN MEASURES TO HELP ZAIRE SURMOUNT THEIR ECONOMIC AND SECURITY PROBLEMS. DURING THIS FY WE WILL MAKE US DOLS. 62.5 MILLION IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO ZAIRE PLUS US DOLS. 19.5 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS. HOWEVER, FURTHER HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO TIDE ZAIRE OVER THE CRUNCH CAUSED BY THE FALLING COPPER PRICES AND THE RESULTS OF THE ANGOLA CIVIL WAR.

4. WHILE ZAMBIA IS ALSO SUFFERING ECONOMICALLY AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTION IN COPPER PRICES AND THE CLOSING FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS OF THE BENGUELA RAILROAD, WE ARE NOT AS INFORMED OF THE SCOPE OF THEIR PROBLEM AS WE ARE OF ZAIRE'S. WE HAVE HAD PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH ZAIRIAN
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OFFICIALS AND TOLD THEM WE WOULD FORMALLY CONSIDER THEIR REQUESTS. WE HAVE URGED THEM TO HAVE EARLY FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH US AND OTHER FRIENDLY DONOR COUNTRIES TO GIVE US SOME IDEA OF THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THEY WILL NEED. WE MADE CLEAR THAT IT PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE, EVEN IF WE WERE SO INCLINED, FOR USG TO FURNISH TOTAL ASSISTANCE THEY ARE LIKELY TO NEED. ZAMBIA MAY ALSO FEEL A NEED FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO BOLSTER

ITS DEFENSE FORCE.

5. US PREPARED TO ASSIST ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THE UNFAVORABLE SITUATION CONFRONTING THEM. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE VISITS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITH INFLUENTIAL US CONGRESSMEN, WE HAVE NOTED THE BEGINNINGS OF A FAVORABLE CONGRESSIONAL CLIMATE OF OPINION TOWARD SUPPORTIVE AID TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. WE INTEND TO PUSH AHEAD AS FAST AS POSSIBLE PENDING RECEIPT FURTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION. WE REALIZE THE IMF IS SIMILARLY CONCERNED AND IS TALKING WITH ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE ABOUT LE07)741 ,?0)9-,. WE URGE OUR FRIENDS IN THE NINE TO

BE IN TOUCH WITH ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE AND TO DO THEIR UTMOST TO BOLSTER THE ECONOMIES AND IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF THESE TWO IMPORTANT GOVERNMENTS. WE BELIEVE THE ROLE OF THE WEST IN RESPONDING TO THE DANGER FACING THESE TWO STATES WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY BY OTHER MODERATE THIRD WORLD STATES AND THAT ONLY BY RAPID, GENEROUS AND CONCERTED ACTION CAN WE EMPHASIZE THE CRUCIAL POINT THAT THE WEST; TOO, CAN BE COUNTED ON TO STAND BY ITS FRIENDS IN THEIR MOMENTS OF CRISIS.

6. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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